

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Claims 1. to 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An implant for implantation into an animal or a human body for preventing herniation, comprising an outer ring, an inner ring that is arranged in the outer ring about a joint axis, and a number of connecting links extending between the outer ring and the inner ring, wherein the inner ring has an outside diameter and the outer ring has an inside diameter that is larger than the outside diameter of the inner ring, wherein a connecting link comprises at least one rod or at least one thread.

14. (Original) The implant according to claim 13, wherein the connecting links are distributed at a mutual angular distance along a ring and jointly forming a number of openings between the inner ring and the outer ring.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An ~~The~~ implant ~~according to claim 15~~ for implantation into an animal or a human body for preventing herniation, comprising an outer ring, an inner ring that is arranged in the outer ring about a joint axis, and a number of connecting links extending between the outer ring and the inner ring, wherein the inner ring has an outside diameter and the outer ring has an inside diameter that is larger than the outside diameter of the inner ring, and ~~wherein the implant further comprises~~ at least one elongated anchoring means secured in at least one opening at an anchoring end and extending outwards from the at least one opening to a free end.

17. (Currently Amended) An ~~The~~ implant ~~according to claim 15~~ for implantation into an animal or a human body for preventing herniation, comprising an outer

ring, an inner ring that is arranged in the outer ring about a joint axis, and a number of connecting links extending between the outer ring and the inner ring, wherein the inner ring has an outside diameter and the outer ring has an inside diameter that is larger than the outside diameter of the inner ring, and wherein an anchoring means is secured in an opening via at least one thread extending out from the anchoring end of the anchoring means.

18. (Original) The implant according to claim 16, wherein an anchoring means is embedded in the outer ring or in at least one anchoring link or in both the outer ring and the at least one anchoring link.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The implant according to ~~claim 15~~ for implantation into an animal or a human body for preventing herniation, comprising an outer ring, an inner ring that is arranged in the outer ring about a joint axis, and a number of connecting links extending between the outer ring and the inner ring, wherein the inner ring has an outside diameter and the outer ring has an inside diameter that is larger than the outside diameter of the inner ring, and wherein the implant further comprises at least one elongated anchoring means partly extending between two adjacent openings and partly extending outwards from the inner ring via the outer ring to a free end, the section of the outer ring extending between the two openings being integrated in an anchoring means.

20. (Original) The implant according to claim 19, which forms a total flexible mesh.

21. (Original) The implant according to claim 13, wherein the inner ring has a larger axial thickness than the outer ring.

22. (Original) The implant according to claim 13, made of a biocompatible material.

23. (Original) The implant according to claim 13, wherein the rings each have a radial extent that is smaller than 5 mm.

24. (Original) The implant according to claim 23, wherein the radial extent of the rings is smaller than 4 mm.

25. (Original) The implant according to claim 23, wherein the radial extent of the rings is smaller than 3 mm.

26. (Original) A method for prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of a hernia at a stomy which comprises introducing the implant according to claim 13 on hypodermal implantation in an animal or a human body.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the implant is applied to the intestine of the animal or human.

28. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 13, which is flat in the operative position.

29. (Previously Presented) The implant of claim 13, wherein the inner and outer rings are located in the same plane.